(6) Central Travancore, by its geographical position and climatic conditions, was pre-eminently fitted for the establishment of a College.

(7) The expenditure incidental to the establishment of a Second Grade College was not such as to deter Government from embarking on the scheme, and it would be an investment quite commensurate with the revenues derived from the taluks of Central Travancore. The Member estimated an initial outlay of Rs. 50,000 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,500 per mensem.

The next point urged by the Member related to the need for the institution of a comparative examination at the end of Form III for the whole State. He was aware of the dangers of too many examinations, but that was only an ideal. Such an examination would tend to standardise the different lower grade English schools in the State, which were in different degrees of efficiency and pursued different methods of instruction. Such an examination would ensure the award of scholarships to the best and most deserving pupils of every school, and would also tend to reduce the number of failures in the School Final Examination. Another point which engaged the attention of the Member was the co-education of boys and girls. He was in favour of co-education in the primary stage only and he strongly condemned the system in the higher stages, as it was fraught with mischievous consequences. In conclusion, the Member referred to the inadequate pay of the vernacular school teachers and prayed that their lot might be made more attractive.

Dewan's reply.—In connection with your suggestion to open a Second Grade College in Central Travancore, you have given some figures regarding the number of School Final Certificate holders who had to seek admission to Colleges outside Travancore in 1915 and 1916. You have not followed up these figures for later years. What Mr. Hodgson says is that most of the boys that go to Colleges outside the State are boys who take up Natural Science as their optional subject and that it is the want of facility for taking up that subject here that drives them out. We are proposing to start Group II in the Trivandrum College, and the difficulty will, I believe, be removed when that group is opened. If Government could start another College in Central Travancore, Government would be very glad to do so. But it is a question of funds. I do not think that your estimate of Rs. 50,000 for initial outlay and Rs. 18,000 per annum for recurring expenditure is anywhere near the mark. The expenditure will be much greater. You must also remember that collegiate education must take rank after primary education, and you cannot expect collegiate education to be taken to the door of every student like primary education. A student must go out some distance from home if he wants the benefit of collegiate education. If it is a question of a private College seeking some help from Government, it will be a far easier one to tackle. But you want a Government College which is much more costly than a private College. The question of collegiate education itself is being examined by the Madras University as a result of the Sadler Commission's report. I believe the Madras University has accepted the principle of converting High Schools into Second Grade Colleges, that is to say, of marking the completion of secondary education at the Intermediate stage rather than leaving it at the School Final stage. That means that we shall have to convert a certain number of High Schools into Colleges. This matter will have to be taken up as soon as the Madras University comes to a final decision. The Director of Public Instruction seems to be in favour of your suggestion to prescribe an examination after Form III. The question will be considered.

110. Need for a High School at Haripad.

Mr. M. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Haripad) drew the attention of Government to the repeated requests made in the Assembly for the establishment of an English High school at Haripad. The policy of Government in opening higher forms in English schools could not be strictly applied in their case, as

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the cost of providing accommodation was beyond their pecuniary capacity, especially at a time when they had spent more than one and a half lakhs of rupees in opening many vernacular schools. Kartikapalli was the only taluk on that side of the country which was not blessed with an English High school; they had to close an English High school for want of sympathetic treatment from Government; there were more than 200 students of the place who were studying in other high schools and many had to discontinue their studies owing to pecuniary difficulties. They had now five lower grade English schools under their management; there was a net profit to Government of more than Rs. 1,000 from the local lower grade English school. The opening of higher forms would not in any way be a source of loss to Government, and even if the opening of Form VI might cause a little expense to Government, such expense was one to which the inhabitants of the taluk might lay legitimate claim.

Dewan's reply.—The report of the Educational Expenditure Committee says that the existing departmental High schools should be converted into aided schools, but in view of the strength of the Haripad school the question of raising its standard will be considered.

111. Need for special concessions to the Kammala community in the matter of education.

Mr. N. Nilacantan Asari (Member, Nominated) dwelt on the great services rendered by the members of his community to the public at large, and referred to their deplorable backwardness in matters educational. He prayed for the grant of the following concessions to his community :—

(1) that full-fee concession should be allowed to Kammala students;

(2) that special scholarships should be instituted in Colleges for the benefit of Kammala students; and

(3) that sufficient encouragement should be given to the qualified men who were already in service and to those who were seeking public service.

Dewan's reply.—It has been reported that the condition of the Kammala community is not such as to need the fee concession asked for. Since, however, you represent that the community is a poor one, the question whether it stands in need of fee concession will be re-examined on further enquiry and with reference to what is obtaining elsewhere.

As for appointments in the public service, a list of vacancies will be published periodically, and if applications are made by persons with the prescribed qualifications to the Selection Committee, they will be considered by that Committee. Promotions in the service will depend on qualifications, merit, seniority and such other considerations.

112. The depressed classes and the policy of Government in the matter of education.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) dwelt on the growing decrease of students among the different sections of his community and drew the attention of Government to the injustice involved in affording equality of treatment to rich Mahomedan and Malayala Brahmins and poor Pulayas in the matter of educational concessions. He urged the necessity for the following concessions being accorded to the members of his community :—

(1) that they should be wholly exempted from school fees;

(2) that they should be given mid-day meals as in Cochin;

(3) that special scholarships should be granted to pupils studying in Classes V, VI, and VII of vernacular schools and in English schools;

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